

JAN 03 2007

FAX COVER SHEET



PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS FACSIMILE

Attention: Examiner: George C. Neurauter, Jr.

Supervisory Examiner: David Wiley

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE

Fax: (571) 273-8300

Examiner: George C. Neurauter, Jr.

Phone: (571) 272-3918

Supervisory Examiner: David Wiley

Alt: (272) 272-3923

Pages: Cover + 4 + 21 = 26

Date: January 3, 2007

Certificate of Transmission

Fax: (310) 964-0941

From: Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179

Phone: (310) 964-4615

Certification of Facsimile Transmission UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that the correspondence identified below is being facsimile transmitted to (571) 273-8300 (Centralized Facsimile Number), addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 3, 2007.


Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179

January 3, 2007
Date

The information contained in this facsimile is confidential and may also contain privileged attorney-client information or work product. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received the facsimile in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, and return the original message to us at the address below via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

Attention:

Please find attached Re: 10/040,770

- > Notice of Appeal in Duplicate (4 pages)
- > Appeal Brief (21 pages)

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS FACSIMILE

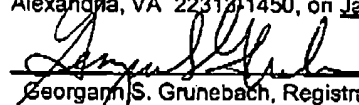
If you do not receive all pages, or pages are not clear, please call Karen Lum at (310) 964-0735.

The DIRECTV Group, Inc. - RE / R11 / A109, P.O. Box 956 - 2250 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

JAN 03 2007

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to (571)-273-8300 (Centralized Facsimile Number), addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22312-1450, on January 3, 2007 by Georgann S. Grunebach (Registered Representative)

 (Signature) January 3, 2007 (Date of Signature)
Georgann S. Grunebach, Registration No. 33,179

Customer Number 020991

Patent
PD-201133IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Application No.: 10/040,770
Filing Date: December 28, 2001
Appellant: Lester J. Chong et al.
Group Art Unit: 2143
Examiner: George C. Neurauter
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTENT FILTERING
Attorney Docket: PD-201133

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following Appeal Brief is submitted in response to the Notice of Appeal filed herewith, January 3, 2007.

01/05/2007 EFLORES 00000107 500383 10040770

01 FC:1402 500.00 DA

Serial No. 10/040,770

2

PD-201133

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this matter is The DIRECTV Group, Inc of El Segundo, California which is 34 percent owned by Fox Entertainment Group, which is approximately 82 percent owned by The News Corporation, Limited.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other known appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are pending in the application. Claim 13 has been canceled.

IV. Status of Amendments

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to the response to the Final Office Action of October 23, 2006.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claim 1 is directed to a method for content filtering. The general system view is illustrated in Figure 1. However, the method of claim 1 is best understood by referring to Figures 4A, 4B, and 4C. Figures 4A-4C are a continuing flowchart of the method. Claim 1 includes the step of receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on the client computer. This is illustrated in step 404 of Figure 4A and is described on page 14, lines 17-28.

Claim 1 further recites determining that the port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content. This is described on page 14, lines 25-30 as step 106.

Claim 1 also recites renumbering the request with a new port number. This is illustrated as step 424 and is set forth on page 15, lines 23-24.

Claim 1 further recites transmitting the request with the new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the new port number. This is illustrated as step 430 and is described on page 15, line 31 through page 16, line 3.

Claim 1 also recites obtaining from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the new port number. This is illustrated as steps 436 and 438 and is described on page 16, lines 22-26.

Serial No. 10/040,770

3

PD-201133

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and recites that the renumbering step 430 of claim 1 includes determining a user of said client's computer's filtering privilege. This is described on page 16, lines 27-31. Claim 2 further recites changing the request with the new port number based on the filtering privilege. This is described on page 19, lines 13-23.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and recites that the step of obtaining further comprises receiving the requested content thereby indicating the content is not restricted. This is illustrated as step 438 and is described on page 16, line 31 through page 17, line 3.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and recites transmitting the content to the client computer. This is also illustrated as step 438 and is described on page 16, line 31 through page 17, line 3.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and recites that obtaining further comprises receiving a notification that the content is blocked. This is illustrated in step 450 and is described on page 17, lines 23-28.

Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and recites the further step of notifying the client computer that the content is blocked. This is illustrated as step 452 and is described on page 17, lines 23-28.

Claim 7 depends from claim 5 and recites several steps that are also illustrated in Figures 4A-4C. Claim 7 recites receiving login details from the client computer. This is illustrated in step 474 and is described on page 18, lines 21-24.

Claim 7 further recites authenticating a user of the client computer based on the login details. This is described in step 476 on page 18, lines 29-32.

Claim 7 further recites determining the user's filter privileges based on the login details. This is also described on page 18, lines 29-32.

Claim 7 further recites ascertaining an additional port number based on the privileges. This is described on page 19, lines 13-23.

Claim 7 further recites renumbering the request with the additional port number and transmitting the request with the additional port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the additional port number. This is also described on page 19, lines 13-23.

The last step of claim 7 recites acquiring from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the additional port number. This is also described on page 19, lines 7-23.

Serial No. 10/040,770

4

PD-201133

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and recites that the step of acquiring comprises receiving the requested content indicating that the content is not restricted. This is described on page 16, line 31 through page 17, line 3 and is illustrated as step 450 of Figure 4B.

Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and recites that the step of acquiring further comprises receiving a notification that the content is blocked. This is described on page 17, lines 23-28 and is illustrated in step 452 of Figure 4B.

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and recites the further step of associating the login details with an internet protocol address of the client computer, such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. This is described on page 19, lines 29-32 and is generally illustrated in Figure 2.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and recites the further step of determining an internet protocol address of the client computer such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. This is described on page 19, lines 1-5 and is generally illustrated in Figure 2.

Claim 12 depends from claim 1 and recites the step of determining further comprises ascertaining that the port number is a TCP (transmission control protocol) port 80. This is illustrated as step 402 of Figure 4A and is described on page 14, lines 25-30.

Claim 13 has been cancelled.

Claim 14 is an independent claim directed to a content filtering gateway. The content filtering gateway is illustrated in Figure 2. The gateway 104 is generally illustrated in Figure 1 within the system. The gateway 104 of Figure 2 includes a central processing unit 202, communication circuitry 204, input and output ports 206, and a memory 210. These are all described on page 9, lines 12-19. The gateway 104 further includes an operating system 212 that is described on page 9, lines 20-22. The system further includes a port sniffer 230 described on page 10, lines 10-11.

Claim 14 further recites a database 232 of filtering privileges and associated port numbers and filtering procedures. This is described on page 10, lines 16-21 and is illustrated in Figure 2.

Claim 14 also includes five instructions that are similar to those set forth in claim 1. The first instruction of claim 14 is an instruction for receiving a request for content from a client computer where the request includes a port number assigned to an application program running

Serial No. 10/040,770

5

PD-201133

on the client computer. This is illustrated in step 404 of Figure 4A and is described on page 14, lines 17-28.

Claim 14 further recites instructions for determining that the port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content. This is illustrated as step 406 of Figure 4A and is described on page 14, lines 25-30.

Claim 14 further includes instructions for renumbering the request with one of the associated port numbers from the database of filtering privileges to form a new port number. This is illustrated as step 424 in Figures 4A and 4B and is described on page 15, lines 23-24.

Claim 14 also includes instructions for transmitting the request with the new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the new port number. This is illustrated as step 430 of Figures 4A and 4B and is described on page 15, line 31 through page 16, line 3.

Claim 14 also includes instructions for obtaining from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the new port number. This is described on page 16, lines 22-26 and is illustrated in steps 436 and 438 of Figure 4B.

Claim 15 recites that the memory further comprises a filtering database 232 containing a filtering database of internet protocol addresses and their associated filter privileges. This is illustrated in Figure 2 and is described on page 10, lines 16-21.

Claim 16 depends from claim 14 and recites that the memory 210 further comprises a database 240 illustrated in Figure 2 containing login details for multiple users and each user's associated filter privileges. This is described on page 12, lines 4-6.

Claim 17 depends from claim 14 and recites that the memory 210 further comprises authentication procedures. This is illustrated in Figure 2, reference numeral 220, and is described on page 9, lines 24-25.

Claim 18 is an independent claim directed to a computer program product for use in conjunction with the computer system for content filtering. The computer program product includes a computer readable storage and computer program stored therein. The computer program comprises five instructions as set forth below. These instructions correspond generally to the method claims of claim 1. Claim 18 recites instructions for receiving a request for content from a client computer where said request includes a port number assigned to an application

Serial No. 10/040,770

6

PD-201133

program running on the client computer. This is described on page 14, lines 17-28 and is illustrated as step 404 of Figures 4A and 4B.

Claim 18 further recites instructions for determining that the port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content. This is described on page 14, lines 25-30 and is illustrated as step 406 of Figures 4A and 4B.

Claim 18 further recites instructions for renumbering the request with a new port number. This is described on page 15, lines 23-24 and is illustrated as step 424 in Figures 4A and 4B.

Claim 18 further recites instructions for transmitting the request with the new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the new port number. This is illustrated as step 430 of Figures 4A and 4B and is described on page 15, line 31 through page 16, line 3.

Claim 18 further recites instructions for obtaining from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the new port number. This is illustrated in steps 436 and 438 of Figures 4A and 4B and is described on page 16, lines 22-26.

Claim 19 recites a system for content filtering that includes at least one content server that stores content in at least one client computer 102 configured to transmit a request for the content to the at least one server. The request contains an address of the content server and a port number associated with the request for content. The general system is illustrated in Figure 1 and the step of requesting an address is illustrated in step 404 of Figures 4A and 4B. The request is described on page 14, lines 17-28.

Claim 19 further recites a gateway 104 coupled to the at least one client computer 102 where the gateway is configured to receive and renumber the request with a new port number associated with a filter privilege of a user of the at least one client computer. The general system is illustrated in Figure 1 and the step of renumbering is illustrated as step 424 of Figures 4A and 4B.

Claim 19 also recites a content filtering server 112 that is illustrated in detail in Figure 3. The content filtering server 112 is configured to block restricted content based on the filter privilege, the request, and the new port number. This is described on page 19, lines 1-5.

Claim 19 also recites a switch 108 that is illustrated in Figure 1. The switch 108 is coupled to gateway 104, the content filtering server 112 and at least one content server, where

Serial No. 10/040,770

7

PD-201133

the switch 108 is configured to listen for the request on the port number and redirects the request to the content filtering server 112. The switch is described on page 8, lines 8-19. The content server is generally described as the content list provider 114 and is described on page 9, lines 2-6.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The following issues are presented in this appeal:

Whether Claims 1-6, 11-15, and 17-19 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Freund (U.S. Pat. 2003/0055962).

Whether Claims 7-10 and 16 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by Freund in view of "SonicWall Soho Internet Security Appliance" (SonicWall).

VII. Argument

The Rejection of Claims 1-6, 11-15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Freund (U.S. Pat. 2003/0055962)

Claim 1

For a proper §102 rejection, each and every element must be present in the reference. Appellants submit that several elements are missing from the Freund reference and, therefore, rejections must be reversed.

The Examiner points to paragraph 147, step 910 for the step of receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on the client computer. Appellants have reviewed paragraph 147 and specifically step 910 and can find no teaching or suggestion for this. Step 910 recites "a connection attempt from one of the local computers to the internet as received by the router." In response to this argument, the Examiner again cites paragraph 147 of the Freund reference. Appellants respectfully submit that several differences between the recitation of claim 1 and the teaching set forth in the Freund reference are different. Appellants admit that a router receives a request for connection to the Internet from a local computer. However, it should be noted that the second line of paragraph 147 describes the operation for a router-side security module. This is significantly different than the present application. In fact, the Freund reference has a title of "System Providing Internet Access Management with Router-Based Policy Enforcement." The Freund reference addresses three principle security issues as described in paragraphs 19 and 20.

Serial No. 10/040,770

8

PD-201133

Thus, it is clear that Freund is directed to security issues and not for restricting access as set forth in the present claims. More specifically, claim 1 recites a request for content from a client computer. The passages set forth in paragraph 147 describe a request for a connection to the Internet from a local computer. Paragraph 47 does not appear to address requesting content. Further, claim 1 further recites that "said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on the client computer." Appellants can find no teaching or suggestion that a port number is assigned to an application program running on the client computer. While it is true that the routing components determine whether or not the destination is an HTTP port as set forth in the fifth line of paragraph 148, no teaching or suggestion is set forth that the port number is assigned to an application program running on the client computer. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the first element of claim 1 is not taught in the Freund reference.

For the step of "determining that the port number is a predetermined port number associated with a request for content," the Examiner cites paragraph 147, step 950. Appellants believe that the Examiner meant to refer to paragraph 148 in which the step 950 is described. Appellants admit that a port number set forth in step 910 and admits that a rerouting manager is set forth. However, it should be kept in mind that the first clause and the second clause both recite a request for content. As stated in the first clause of the claim, the request for content is from a client computer. As mentioned above, no request for content is set forth in the passages cited by the Examiner in the Freund reference.

The Examiner points to paragraph 149 for transmitting the request with the new port number to a content filtering server configured to listen for request on the new port number. The Examiner specifically points to the phrase "reroutes this packet to the sandbox server". Appellants respectfully submit that the sandbox server is not a content filtering server. Sandbox server is described as a server that is used to categorize a reason for noncompliance. The paragraph also describes the sandbox server as not running required security software. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner argues that the claim does not specifically recite and, therefore, require any functional feature other than the claimed "configured to listen for requests on said new port number" and indicating "whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number." Appellants respectfully submit that these limitations must be considered. At the beginning of paragraph 149, the destination IP address in the Freund

Serial No. 10/040,770

9

PD-201133

reference is replaced with the IP address at the sandbox server. Therefore, it appears that transmitting the request with the new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the new port number is not taught or suggested. In fact, it is a routing function and routing to a specific IP address that is provided for in paragraph 149.

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that "the sandbox server listens for requests on the new port number." Although the change of a destination port is set forth, the sandbox server is routed to by the destination IP address that is changed in the first three lines of paragraph 149. Therefore, the sandbox server does not listen for communications on a number of ports as is set forth by the Examiner. The Examiner then points to paragraph 148. Appellants respectfully submit that this quote is from paragraph 42. The Examiner then goes on to recite a portion of paragraph 115. These recitations highlight the differences between the present application and the Freund reference. The portions underlined by the Examiner in paragraph 115 state "based on the port which the packet has received, the sandbox server displays an appropriate error page corresponding to the compliance problem that is detected." Although the sandbox server listens for a particular port that corresponds to an error, Appellants respectfully maintain that there is no teaching or suggestion for transmitting the request, which is a request for content from a client computer, with the new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on the new port number and obtaining from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the new port number.

The Examiner also points to paragraph 149 and the phrase "using this information . . ." for the proposition of obtaining from the content filtering server an indication of whether the content is restricted based on the request and the new port number. Appellants respectfully submits that it is useful to review the entire sentence which states, "Using this information, the sandbox server then displays a page with information enabling the client to address the specific problem that was detected." Appellants respectfully submit that the sandbox server is described on page 11, paragraphs 114 through 117. Specifically, in paragraph 117, a number of ports and the content of communications with respect to the port are set forth. There is no teaching or suggestion for content filtering and whether or not a particular request is restricted based upon a request and a new port number.

Serial No. 10/040,770

10

PD-201133

Appellants respectfully submit that each and every element of claim 1 is not set forth in the Freund reference. The purpose of the Freund reference and the present application are completely different. The Examiner is trying to manipulate the similarities of the Freund reference into the framework set forth by claim 1. Appellants respectfully submit that each and every element of claim 1 is not found in the Freund reference and, therefore, claim 1 should be allowable.

Claim 2

Claim 2 recites the step that renumbering recites the steps of determining a user of said client computer's filter privilege and changing the request with the new port number based on the filter privilege. The Examiner points to paragraph 149 and quotes back the wording of claim 2. Appellants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion for a filter privilege in this paragraph and, therefore, determining a user of said client's computer's filter privilege and changing the request based on the filter privilege is not taught or suggested in claim 2. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 2.

Claim 3

Claim 3 specifically recites receiving requested content thereby indicating that the content is not restricted. As mentioned above, Appellants respectfully submit that there is no request for content set forth in paragraph 149. Therefore, the limitations of claim 3 are not taught or suggested in the Freund reference.

Claim 4

Claim 4 recites transmitting the content to the client computer. The Examiner again points to paragraph 149. As mentioned above in claim 3, there is no teaching or suggestion for transmitting content. Merely a connection is set forth in paragraph 149. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 4.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is an independent claim that states that the step of obtaining comprises receiving a notification that the content is blocked. The Examiner again points to paragraph 149. It should be noted that a non-compliance reason is generated by the Freund reference based upon a determination that a specific problem was detected. There is no teaching or suggestion that a

Serial No. 10/040,770

11

PD-201133

specific type of content is blocked in this paragraph. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 5.

Claim 6

Claim 6 recites the further step of notifying the client computer that the content is blocked. This claim depends upon claim 5. There is no teaching or suggestion, as mentioned above, for determining that the content is blocked. Therefore, claim 6 is also allowable for the same reason set forth above with respect to claim 5.

Claim 8

Claim 8 recites that acquiring comprises receiving the requested content indicating the content is not restricted. As mentioned above, the Freund reference does not teach or suggest receiving content indicating whether the content is restricted.

Claim 9

Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and recites that acquiring comprises receiving a notification that the content is blocked. As mentioned above, no teaching or suggestion is provided in the Freund reference for blocking content. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 9.

Claim 10

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and recites that associating the login details with an internet protocol address at the client computer such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. Appellants respectfully submit that associating login details with an internet protocol address is not taught or suggested. Further, the Freund reference does not teach content filtering as mentioned above. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 10.

Claim 11

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and recites the further step of after receiving, determining an internet protocol address of the client computer, such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. The Examiner points to paragraph 147 of the Freund reference for this teaching. Appellants have reviewed paragraph 147 and, as described above, can find no teaching or suggestion for content filtering. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion for content filtering applying only to a particular client computer.

Serial No. 10/040,770

12

PD-201133

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites that determining comprises ascertaining that the port number is transmission control protocol port 80. The Examiner points to paragraph 148 for this teaching. Although port 80 is taught in line 5 of paragraph 148, no teaching or suggestion is provided for the remaining portions of claim 1 from which claim 12 depends. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that claim 12 is also allowable and, therefore, requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position.

Claim 14

Claim 14 is an independent claim that has instructions that are similar to the method steps of claim 1. Except that the step of "instructions for renumbering said request with one of said associated port numbers from the database of filtering privileges to form a new port number" includes the extra portion of the database of filtering privileges. Appellants respectfully submit that the Freund reference does not teach or suggest filtering privileges and, therefore, a database of filtering privileges is not taught or suggested. The remaining portions of claim 14 are believed to be allowable for the same reason set forth above with respect to claim 1. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 14 as well.

Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and that the filtering database is in a memory and contains filtering database of internet protocol addresses and their associated privilege. As described above in the argument for claim 14, there is no teaching or suggestion for filtering privileges in claim 14. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 15 as well.

Claim 17

Claim 17 depends from claim 14 and recites that the memory comprises authentication procedures. The Examiner points to paragraph 147 for authentication procedures. Specifically, the Examiner points to the security module for this teaching. Appellants can find no teaching or suggestion for authentication procedures. Security and authentication are not necessarily the same. Without further description the meaning cannot be presumed. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 17.

Serial No. 10/040,770

13

PD-201133

Claim 18

Claim 18 is an independent claim directed to a computer program that includes instruction steps corresponding to claim 1. Therefore, claim 18 stands or falls together with claim 1.

Claim 19

Claim 19 is an independent claim directed to a system for content filtering. As mentioned above, Appellants respectfully submit that a request for content is not taught or suggested in the Freund reference. Further, claim 19 further recites receiving and renumbering the request with a new port number associated with a filter privilege of a user. Appellants respectfully submit that no filter privilege of a user is taught or suggested in the Freund reference. Arguments for this were set forth above. Further, a content filtering server is also not taught or suggested. Appellants specifically mention the content filtering service with respect to the argument in claim 1. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion of a switch coupled to the gateway and content filtering server and at least one content server wherein the switch is configured to listen for the request on the port number and redirect the request to the content filtering server. As mentioned above, no content filtering server is taught or suggested let alone a switch and a gateway and a content server all coupled to the switch. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 19 as well.

**The Rejection of Claims 7-10 and 16 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by
Freund in view of "SonicWall Soho Internet Security Appliance"
(SonicWall)**

Claim 7

Claim 7 ultimately depends from claim 1. As mentioned above, the Freund reference has several deficiencies including the lack of a content filter. Appellants have reviewed pages 99 through 101 and can find no teaching or suggestion for content filtering in these passages. Appellants admit that a bypass filter is set forth on page 100. This passage does not appear to teach content filtering. However, Appellants respectfully submit that a bypass filter is not the same as a content filter. Therefore, Appellants also respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection as well since the deficiencies of Freund have not been found in this SonicWall reference.

Serial No. 10/040,770

14

PD-201133

Claim 8

Claim 8 recites that acquiring comprises receiving the requested content indicating the content is not restricted. As mentioned above, the Freund reference does not teach or suggest receiving content indicating whether the content is restricted.

Claim 9

Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and recites that acquiring comprises receiving a notification that the content is blocked. As mentioned above, no teaching or suggestion is provided in the Freund reference for blocking content. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 9.

Claim 10

Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and recites that associating the login details with an internet protocol address at the client computer such that the method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer. Appellants respectfully submit that associating login details with an internet protocol address is not taught or suggested. Further, the Freund reference does not teach content filtering as mentioned above. Therefore, Appellants respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 10.

Claim 16

Claim 16 depends from claim 14 and recites that the memory comprises a user database containing login details for multiple users in each user's associated filter privilege. Appellants respectfully submit that filter privileges are not taught or suggested in the Freund reference. Even the SonicWall reference teaches a user list, there is no teaching or suggestion for the associated filter privilege. Appellants, therefore, respectfully request the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 16 as well.

VIII. Claims Appendix

A copy of each of the claims involved in this appeal, namely claims 1-12 and 14-19, is attached as a Claims Appendix.

IX. Evidence Appendix

None.

Serial No. 10/040,770

16

PD-201133

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method for content filtering, comprising:
receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer;
determining that said port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content;
renumbering said request with a new port number;
transmitting said request with said new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said new port number; and
obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number.
2. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said renumbering comprises:
determining a user of said client computer's filtering privilege; and
changing said request with said new port number based on said filtering privilege.
3. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining further comprises receiving said requested content, thereby indicating that said content is not restricted.
4. The method for content filtering of claim 3, further comprising transmitting said content to said client computer.
5. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said obtaining further comprises receiving a notification that said content is blocked.
6. The method for content filtering of claim 5, further comprising notifying said client computer that said content is blocked.
7. The method for content filtering of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving login details from said client computer;
authenticating a user of said client computer based on said login details;

Serial No. 10/040,770

17

PD-201133

determining said user's filter privileges based on said login details;
ascertaining an additional port number based on said filter privileges;
renumbering said request with said additional port number;
transmitting said request with said additional port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said additional port number; and
acquiring from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said additional port number.

8. The method for content filtering of claim 7, wherein said acquiring further comprises receiving said requested content indicating that said content is not restricted.

9. The method for content filtering of claim 7, wherein said acquiring further comprises receiving a notification that said content is blocked.

10. The method for content filtering of claim 7, further comprising associating said login details with an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer.

11. The method for content filtering of claim 1, further comprising, after said receiving, determining an Internet Protocol (IP) address of said client computer, such that said method for content filtering applies only to a particular client computer.

12. The method for content filtering of claim 1, wherein said determining further comprises ascertaining that said port number is TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) port 80.

13. (Cancelled)

14. A content filtering gateway, comprising:
a Central Processing Unit (CPU);
communications circuitry; and
input/output ports; and

Serial No. 10/040,770

18

PD-201133

a memory containing:

an operating system;

a port sniffer;

a database of filtering privileges and associated port numbers; and

filtering procedures comprising:

instructions for receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer;

instructions for determining that said port number is a predetermined port number associated with the request for content;

instructions for renumbering said request with one of said associated port numbers from the database of filtering privileges to form a new port number;

instructions for transmitting said request with said new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said new port number; and

instructions for obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number.

15. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further comprises a filtering database containing a filtering database of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and their associated filter privileges.

16. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further comprises a user database containing login details for multiple users and each user's associated filter privilege.

17. The content filtering gateway of claim 14, wherein said memory further comprises authentication procedures.

18. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system for content filtering, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage and a computer program stored therein, the computer program comprising:

Serial No. 10/040,770

19

PD-201133

instructions for receiving a request for content from a client computer, where said request includes a port number assigned to an application program running on said client computer;

instructions for determining that said port number is a predetermined port number associated with a request for content;

instructions for renumbering said request with a new port number;

instructions for transmitting said request with said new port number to a content filtering server that is configured to listen for requests on said new port number; and

instructions for obtaining from said content filtering server an indication of whether said content is restricted based on said request and said new port number.

19. A system for content filtering, comprising:

at least one content server that stores content;

at least one client computer configured to transmit a request for said content to said at least one content server, where said request contains an address of said content server and a port number associated with said request for said content ;

a gateway coupled to said at least one client computer, where said gateway is configured to receive and renumber said request with a new port number associated with a filter privilege of a user of said at least one client computer;

a content filtering server, configured to block restricted content based on said filter privilege, said request and said new port number; and

a switch coupled to said gateway, said content filtering server, and said at least one content server, where said switch is configured to listen for said request on said new port number and to redirect said request to said content filtering server.

Serial No. 10/040,770

20

PD-201133

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

Serial No. 10/040,770

21

PD-201133

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.

Serial No. 10/040,770

15

PD-201133

X. Related Proceedings Appendix

None.


XI. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Appellants respectfully request that the Board direct the Examiner in charge of this examination to withdraw the rejections.

Please charge the \$500.00 fee required in the filing of this appeal to The DIRECTV Group, Inc. Deposit Account 50-0383.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 3, 2007

By: 
Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179
Attorney for Appellants

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA / LA1 / A109
2230 East Imperial Highway
P.O. Box 956
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956
Telephone: (310) 964-4615